

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 /060 W
-----026505 131736Z /53

O 131547Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1370
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 6055

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP
SUBJ: US-SPANISH TREATY: MILITARY COOPERATION

REF: MADRID 5739

1. I TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER
OREJA IN SAN SEBASTIAN ON AUGUST 11, TO REVIEW WITH
HIM SOME OF THE QUESTIONS AFFECTING US-SPANISH MILITARY
COOPERATION. I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE WE HAVE BEEN
APPRECIATIVE OF THE APPROVAL GIVEN BY THE GOS FOR
THE USE OF ROTA FOR NPW VISITS, I HAD BEEN
DISTURBED AND DISAPPOINTED BY THE TURN-DOWN WE HAD
RECENTLY RECEIVED FOR A VISIT BY AN SSN ACCOMPANIED BY A
CONVENTIAL-POWERED SHIP TO PALMA IN OCTOBER. I
SAID THAT THE SPANISH NAVY HAD CAREFULLY EXAMINED
THE QUESTION OF PALMA AND HAD COME UP WITH A FAVORABLE
RECOMMENDATION. OREJA INTERJECTED THAT WE SHOULD
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NOT BELIEVE THAT QUOTE EACH TIME A SPANISH ADMIRAL SMILES
UNQUOTE IT MEANT FORTHCOMING APPROVAL FOR
SOMETHING WE WANTED. I REPLIED THAT WE OBVIOUSLY
KNEW THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND THAT ALL SUCH
QUESTIONS REQUIRED CONSIDERATION AT THE POLITICAL
LEVEL.

2. I WENT ON THAT THE DISAPPROVAL OF PALMA WAS OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO US AS IT REDUCED FLEXIBILITY OF THE SIXTH FLEET IN MEDITERRANEAN WATERS. ROTA WAS USEFUL TO US IN TERMS OF COMING IN OR GOING OUT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BUT WHAT WAS LACKING WAS ADDITIONAL PORT FLEXIBILITY FOR NPW'S IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANENA.

3. OREJA SAID THAT THE POSSIBLE USE OF PALMA HAD BEEN GIVEN CONSIDERATION IN THE CABINET MEETING ON JULY 29 AND HE HAD TO TELL ME THAT THERE WERE NO MINISTERS WHO FAVORED IT. THE CIVILIAN GOVERNOR OF THE BALEARICS, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A SERIOUS AND COMPETENT, OFFICIAL, (WHO INCIDENTALLY HAS SINCE BEEN TRANSFERRED IN A MAJOR RESHUFFLE OF CIVIL GOVERNORS,) HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE DISTURBANCES IF AN NPW VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE THERE. MOREOVER, SAID OREJA, SUCH A VISIT MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED JUST AT THE VERY TIME THAT A FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE MIGHT BE TAKING PLACE IN THE PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND ITSELF IN AN AWKARD POSITION IF PUBLIC DISORDERS HAD OR WERE TAKING PLACE IN PALMA. THE GOERNMENT DESIRED TO AVOID ANY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS OF THIS SORT WHICH COULD NOT ONLY COMPLICATE ITS INTERNAL POSITION BUT ALSO SOME OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES.

4. I TOLD OREJA THAT WHILE I COULD UNDERSTAND THIS, NEVERTHELESS THERE REMAINED THE PROBLEM THAT OUR NAVY
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NEEDED FLEXIBILITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OVERALL WESTERN DEFENSE AND THIS SEEMED CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE HOPED WAS INCREASING COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ON MILITARY MATTERS. AT THIS POINT OREJA SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER SOME OTHER PORT FOR NPW VISITS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, SUCH AS CARTAGENA. HE DID NOT ELABORATE. I SAID I APPRECIATED THE SUGGESTION AND THAT I WOULD EXAMINE IT WITH OUR NAVY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 6055

5. I THEN SAID TO OREJA THAT BEFORE WE PROCEEDED
IN A MORE FORMAL SENSE THROUGH THE MECHANISMS PROVIDED
BY THE TREATY, I WANTED TO RAISE INFORMALLY WITH HIM
THE POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH APPROVAL FOR THE STATIONING
OF TWO ADDITIONAL KC-135 TANKER AIRCRAFT AT ZARAGOZA
BETWEEN 20 - 30 SEPTEMBER AND TWO MARINE KC-130 REFUELER/
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AT ROTA TO BE USED SOLELY IN SUPPORT
OF US AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATING IN AN ANNUAL NATO EXERCISE
"DISPLAY DETERMINATION". I EMPHASIZED THAT THE AIRCRAFT
WOULD BE STAGED AT ZARAGOZA AND ROTA FOR A VERY SHORT
PERIOD OF TIME BUT THEY WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS SIGNIFICANT EXERCISE.

6. OREJA SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF INDICATIONS THAT THE
SPANISH HAD RECEIVED CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A REQUEST
FOR TEMPORARY THOUGH ADDITIONAL TANKER AIRCRAFT, THE QUESTION HAD
BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE CABINET MEETING OF JULY 29 AND THE CONCLUSION
HAD BEEN REACHED THAT AS THE TREATY PROVIDED FOR THE STATIONING
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IN SPAIN ONLY OF FIVE TANKER AIRCRAFT IN ZARAGOZA, THE GOS
COULD NOT AGREE TO THE STATIONING OF TANKER AIRCRAFT
ADDITIONAL TO THAT FIVE, EVEN ON A TEMPORATY BASIS, IN SPAIN.
HE WAS AWARE THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN FOR
AN EMERGENCY TANKER OPERATION AND FOR THE STATIONING OF
TWO ADDITIONAL TANKER AIRCRAFT IN ZARAGOZA WHEN TWO OF
THE NORMAL FIVE HAD BEEN OUT OF OPERATION, BUT, OREJA
EMPHASIZED, THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT IT WAS
NECESSARY TO BOSERVE STRICTLY THE TERMS OF THE TREATY SO THAT
IT COULD DEFEND IN PARLIAMENT U.S. OPERATIONS. IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT TO DEFEND ADDITIONAL REQUESTS.

7. AT THIS POINT I COMMENTED TO OREJA THAT IF INDEED

THE SPANISH HAD NO FLEXIBILITY UNDER THE TREATY IT SEEMED TO ME UNREASONABLE THEN TO ASK US TO GO BEYOND THE TERMS OF THE TREATY IN SUCH MATTERS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CIRCULATION TAX IN ROTA. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE TREATY WE WERE CLEARLY EXEMPT FROM THAT TAXATION AND I COULD SEE LITTLE OR NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY EXTRA EFFORT ON OUR PART IN THIS CONNECTION. MOREOVER WE WERE ALREADY HELPING THE TOWN OF ROTA IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS WHICH COST US SOME-THINGS BUT WITHOUT COST TO ROTA FOR WHICH WE SEEMED TO BE RECEIVING LITTLE RECOGNITION. TO THIS OREJA REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE MONEY BUT RATHER THE POLITICAL ISSUE WHICH COULD BE CREATED IN ROTA IN THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IF SOME WAY WERE NOT FOUND TO KEEP THIS QUESTION OF THE CIRCULATION TAX FROM BECOMING AN ELECTORAL BONE OF CONTENTION.

8. OREJA CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT THTE TREATY WAS A GOOD ONE AND WOULD STAND UP UNDER PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY. ALREADY THE PARTIDO SOCIALISTA POPULAR (PSP), THE LEFT-WING SOCIALIST-SPLINTER PARTY UNDER TIerno GALVAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD SOUGHT TO HAVE A DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON U.S. FACILITIES WHICH THE PSP OPPOSED, BUT HAD BEEN TURNED OFF. HOWEVER, OTHERS, INCLUDING THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE), WOULD SEEK TO CRITICIZE US-SPANISH MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. THE GOS WANTED TO AVOID ANY CONTROVERSY IN THE AREA OF THE TREATY SO THAT WHEN THE FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE TOOK PLACE IN THE PARLIAMENT LATER THIS YEAR, BOTH ON NATO AND THE TREATY, ITS TASK WOULD NOT BE COMPLICATED BY DEFENDING ACTIONS WHICH IT BELIEVED WENT BEYOND THE TERMS OF THE TREATY.

9. FINALLY, OREJA SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH THE SECRETARY AT THE TIME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING SOME OF THE QUESTIONS IN THIS AREA OF MILITARY COOPERATION. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID06055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770292-1177
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770864/aaaaccfb.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f32f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 5739
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1609973
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SPANISH TREATY: MILITARY COOPERATION
TAGS: MARR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f32f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009